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# Bill Signing and Post-Session Wrap-Up

April 10th, 2012

## Annapolis, MD

Thank you all very much. This session accomplished some significant things for jobs. We came together on fair, bipartisan redistricting, both legislatively and Congressional redistricting. We came together to protect the rights of individuals and religious freedom under the Marriage Equality Act. We also did really did really important and difficult things on stormwater, on investing in upgrades to sewage treatment plants, on stopping the proliferation of the inevitable pollution that flows into our streams from septs. So I really want to thank the chair Maggie McIntosh for her work in her committee and Senator Joan Carter Conway for all of their work.

This was a very good budget in terms of job creation, especially in our hard-hit construction trades. We are making the second largest investment we've done in school construction, and renovating older classrooms. So those are some of the highlights from this session.

The Lt. Governor will be touching on the Health Disparities Bill, which we will be going to be signing today. It's sort of a forerunner of what we need to do in the nation when it comes to not only extending care to more of our citizens, but really improving the quality of care, improving the outcomes, and breaking down costs. I understand that it is the Health Bill that we will be signing first, followed by, ironically, the Maintenance of Effort Bill.

Sadly, the Legislature, despite the fact that we have had the number one public schools in America, four years in a row, despite the fact that we were on the cusp of making college more affordable for more people, the Legislature failed to enact an operating budget that was anything like the plan the House came up with, and it was pretty far away from the plan that I submitted to the Legislature—which is really a shame, because we had the ability, and I think the people of our State had the will, but our leaders weren't able to come to the consensus necessary to protect education.

So ironically as we sign the Maintenance of Effort Bill, we are cutting by a quarter of a billion dollars what we invest in our children's future and our children's education. We are cutting by 10% what we invest in higher education. Most of those investments, in these tough times, were intended to make college more affordable for more families, so that every family could realize the hopes and dreams they see in the eyes of their children; so they can send them to a great college and let them be all that they can be. We failed to do those things.

We also failed our law enforcement officers on the front lines in reducing violent crime; and to save lives. We failed our neighbors and our law enforcement officers in places like Salisbury, where they've done a great job of reducing homicides, and here in the capital city, in Annapolis, where we've been making all sorts of strides in reducing violent crime.

So sadly, the operating budget was pretty much the low point, from my experience here, and it's not for lack of work by people like Secretary Eloise Foster, our Secretary of Budget and Management. They did an outstanding job, and I really want to thank her. I want to thank Joe

Bryce and everyone in the Office of Legislative Affairs, and I want to those members of the General Assembly who did not lose focus on the best interests of the people that we serve.

We cannot change the past. We can only change the future. And in many ways, thanks to the work of this session, we are changing that future, for the better. In other ways, unfortunately, we're taking a step back.

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# Governor O'Malley, Senate President Miller, Speaker Busch Hold First Bill Signing of 2012 Legislative Session

April 10th, 2012

## ***Governor signs Maintenance of Effort bill to protect public education, health disparities legislation to improve quality of life***

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today joined Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., House Speaker Michael E. Busch, and Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown to sign legislation to protect public education and improve Marylanders' quality of life. The Governor signed into law the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) bill and the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012.



"Today, we're here to focus on a number of areas where we were able to make significant progress for job creation, education and our quality of life," said Governor O'Malley. "Together, we are strengthening our commitment to public education because to move forward, we must create jobs and expand opportunity – and education is the best tool we have. Progress is a choice, job creation is a choice, better schools are a choice; and in our One Maryland we should choose to move forward together."

With a balanced approach to create jobs, improve public education, and protect Marylanders' quality of life, the Administration proposed \$800 million in cuts to bring the six-year total to \$7.5 billion- the largest amount cut in Maryland's history. These cuts, balanced with modern investments, would create jobs and move Maryland forward. The Administration's capital budget will create, support and leverage approximately 50,000 jobs building and re-building modern schools, modern roads, modern transit, and modern clean water infrastructure.

[For a full summary of the O'Malley-Brown Administration's 2012 Legislative Agenda, click here.](#)

The legislation passed by the General Assembly and signed today works to reform the MOE system to protect investments in public education.

Since taking office, the O'Malley-Brown Administration has continued its commitment to quality public education, making strategic and record investments in K-12 education even in tough times. This year's \$373 million investment in school construction dollars to build, renovate and "green" Maryland's schools brings the Administration's six-year total to \$2 billion and supports an estimated 11,000 jobs for Maryland families. For four years in a row, Maryland's public schools have been certified as number-one in the nation by Education Week magazine. Maryland has also led the nation in the percentage of graduating seniors that had taken and passed an AP exam according to the College Board, now for four years in a row. The Administration also froze tuition at public colleges and universities for four consecutive years,

and has held tuition increases to just three percent, making the dream of a college education more affordable for more families. [The Administration has set a strategic goal to Improve Student Achievement and School, College, and Career Readiness in Maryland by 25 percent by the end of 2015.](#)

Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Brown, the Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012 will create a series of geographically based Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs) in underserved communities impacted by health disparities. Within a designated zone, incentives would be provided to eligible primary care practitioners and community-based organizations or local health departments to expand and improve access to care, improve health, and reduce disparities.

"With the signing of our Health Improvement and Disparities Reductions Act, Maryland is once again leading the way by putting into place an innovative approach for improving health in our most vulnerable communities," said Lt. Governor Brown. "Our Health Enterprise Zones program will help saturate underserved communities with primary care providers and health care services in order to ensure that every Marylander, of every race, ethnicity and nationality, in every part of our State, has the opportunity to live a healthy, productive life."

Lt. Governor Brown leads the O'Malley-Brown Administration's efforts to reduce costs, expand access, and improve the quality of health care for all Marylanders. Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown, Maryland has implemented reforms that have expanded health coverage to over 310,000 Marylanders (half of them children) and put the State in position to maximize the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).

[For a full list of bills signed today, click here.](#)

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

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# Dedication of the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Children's Center and the Sheikh Zayed Tower at Johns Hopkins Hospital

April 12th, 2012

## Baltimore, MD

To His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, and to all of our friends from the United Arab Emirates, we thank you for your generosity in making this day possible.

We thank you for bringing to reality the beautiful truth of *islah*, as we seek to make whole, to cure, to reform the ways in which we heal ourselves and one another.



To my friend Mayor Bloomberg – Hopkins alumnus Mayor Bloomberg – thank you for making real the hope of *tikkun olam*, the repairing of the world, and the beautiful Talmudic truth that the “*highest form of wisdom is kindness.*”

The great America mystic, Thomas Merton, once wrote, “*What has to be healed in us is our true nature,.... What we have to learn is love. The healing and the learning are the same thing, for at the very core of our essence we are constituted in God's likeness by our freedom,...*”

Today in Baltimore – the original land of the free and the home of the brave – because of your generosity and compassion, we write together, with John Hopkins Hospital, a new chapter in our story of discovery, learning and healing.

And it is our freedom that moves us forward. Forward with the freedom to dream, forward with the freedom to build, forward with the freedom to give, the freedom to love, the freedom to heal this world one life at a time.

Thank you and congratulations.

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## Innovate Maryland

April 13th, 2012

### Baltimore, Md

Thanks very, very much. Dr. Doswell, thank you, thank you for that compelling story. My goodness, did that make you proud as a Marylander? Sometimes as Marylanders we suffer from a pathological modesty. We assume that the good things that happen here sometimes, for some reason, happen by themselves. They don't happen by themselves. They happen because of the choices we make together. And thank you for recognizing the historic tax credit and what that did for this building. I also was thinking about the other tax credits that are so very important to all the things that we do.

It's great to be with all of you. Dr. DeLoatch, from Morgan State University, who is a legend in the engineering world of the United States of America, and Aris Melissaratos, our former Secretary of the Maryland Department of Economic and Business Development, his successor, Christian Johansson, our current secretary. I also want to acknowledge Andrea Vernot, who has done so many good things. She's going to be leaving State employ soon, but she's done an outstanding job getting us all on the same page, singing off the same hymn. Another thing we Marylanders don't like to do: we're not only solo-preneurs, we're solo singers. It's hard for us to sing off the same page sometimes. It's great to see Jay Brodie, my dear friend. Jay and I have beaten our heads against brick walls in many a noble and courageous battle. And Martha Connolly, and Mr. O'Shea from the University of Maryland and all of you here.

Dr. Doswell, again thank you for sharing the inspiring story of Juxtopia. This has been a great week for Johns Hopkins University as well, how about that? I should – To Deb Tillett and to everyone at Johns Hopkins with the Emerging Technology Center, thank you for hosting us today. We are so glad that Johns Hopkins, the University System of Maryland and Morgan State have come together in this initiative.

It's been said that, to begin to make a change, "individuals start where they stand and ... make the road by walking." And that's what the entrepreneurs in this place have been doing. They've been making new roads – new roads in science and technology, innovating every day, making real the promise of innovation, and advancing discoveries that hold the promise to reform and really revolutionize the way we "feed, fuel, and heal" this increasingly interconnected world of ours ... and in so doing, creating jobs, and expanding opportunity.

All progress depends on jobs. There is no progress without jobs. My friend Paul Hawken said, we're the only species on the planet without full employment. And in our State, every person is needed. All of this matters – all of our progress depends on job creation. In our State, fortunately, we have all of the assets we need to harness the promise of an Innovation Economy. Every now and again, I sit down with governors from other states, and I would not trade places with one of them. When you look at the assets that we have in an Innovation Economy, on a per capita, on a pound for pound, on a straight up basis, there are many states that would like to say, "We are a leader in biotechnology." But none of them has Johns Hopkins. None of them has NIH. None of them has University of Maryland, Morgan State – all four of



those. I mean, we are a powerhouse, we have all the assets that we need.

Get this: over the last year, our State created 47,000 new jobs. Now that is the best year of new job creation that we have been able to achieve since the recession hit. If you look at the jobs we've recovered since the recession and all of those job losses, we've now recovered about 80 percent of the jobs we lost. Nationally, it's about 39 percent of the jobs we've lost. We now rank 9<sup>th</sup> among 50 states in the rate of new job creation. Why is that? It's because of places like this. It's because of innovation. It's because of collaboration. It's because of creativity.

The emerging technology center companies have created 1,800 Maryland jobs since 1999. And 100 percent of the graduates from the ETC – by graduates, we mean companies – have chosen to remain in Maryland in order to grow their businesses.

Maryland is at the epicenter of science, security, healing, and innovation. Our State ranks #1 in research and development per capita. Our State is ranked by the Milken Institute #2 for science and technology. We are among the three states best positioned in the new economy, according to the Kauffman New Economy Index. And the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks us #5 for growth and one of the top seven states for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Now for all of those accolades, and all of those objective measures outside the office or desk of Andrea Vernot or Christian, or any of the rest of us who have the responsibility of reminding one another of our strengths, for all of those assets, unfortunately, we have traditionally lagged behind many, many other states when it comes to commercializing those ideas. Moving them out of the labs and into the economic mainstream so that we can create companies. Last year, we ranked 37<sup>th</sup> for entrepreneurial activity in the Kauffman New Economy Index.

What's wrong with this picture? #1 in research, 37<sup>th</sup> in commercialization? We can do better. We must do better. In 2011, with the hard work of many of you in this hallway here, we moved up from that 37<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. But that still means we've got 19 places to go. Because as Marylanders, with the assets we have, we should not be satisfied with being #1 in research and being 20<sup>th</sup> in innovation and commercialization. We should be #1 in both.

So today we're happy to announce, that among the many good things – not withstanding an incomplete budget – among the many good things the General Assembly completed was the Maryland Innovation Initiative. The General Assembly passed the Maryland Innovation Initiative, which is a historic partnership between Johns Hopkins, Morgan State University, and the University of Maryland's campuses, and your State government to move more of our groundbreaking research that's happening at our universities and research institutions into the commercial marketplace, and to do it faster.

We're joined by our Chief Innovation Officer for the State of Maryland, the first person to ever have that title, Bryan Sivak, who has worked with many of the stakeholders in this process, and Christian Johansson was recounting to me a conversation he had with Ron Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins. He said, "Look, Christian. What we've done on Invest Maryland is really important, but I need a smaller amount of dollars in order to water those tiniest of seeds that are still in the labs so that we can have a proof of concept." And Christian and Aris Melissaratos are both nodding their heads affirmatively because this is part of the continuum. Jay Steinmetz knows from his own successful business and its growth and development.

I mean, they all start as tiny little seeds, and then there's a continuum of growth in order to get to a point where you have companies like Martek. Get this, Martek began its life at the University of Maryland. It grew into one of our most successful life science companies. Martek, in fact, traveled with us to India where we blessed and signed a deal in India together. Martek has figured out a way, with their innovation, to take vital proteins, DHA, right from algae, so you don't have to suck all the menhaden out of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, and reduce them to fish oil. It's a dietary supplement, but they found a sustainable way to create and recreate it without doing damage to the ecosystem in the process. And in India, there happen to be a lot

of vegetarians. In fact, there happen to be a lot of everybody in India. And so they signed the big deal over there. Martek sold for more than \$1 billion in 2010. They are part of the leading edge of our engagement in a global economy, where capital will find good ideas if we can just get them off the launching pad and out of the labs.

Companies like Moodlerooms. I called up the other day, when I saw this purchase. You all have heard of Blackboard? I think they're headquartered in DC – we hope to get them to move about two miles north. But anyway, Moodlerooms is a graduate of the ETC incubator. Martin Knott, on the ground floor of that company, they grew from two employees to more than 100 by the time it was sold to Blackboard Inc. just last month.

Companies like Juxtopia, and Dr. Doswell and your story – a success story, success stories in the making. They are growing. They are happening. But we need to do a better job of getting them out of the labs and getting them through that critical first early stage.

So through these past years, we've done a number of good things together – all part of harnessing the assets of our Innovation Economy. A few years back, we set the BioMaryland Initiative – a \$1.3 billion vision for where we can take our biotech industry. While other states are falling back, saying they can no longer afford to make investments like this, we're moving forward. We're checking the box. We still have to back and rescue that biotech tax credit from the jaws of General Assembly incompleteness, but the biotech tax credit, the R&D tax credit, the stem cell research – I mean, these are not frills that were on that Doomsday budget. All of those things were cut. But all of those things are important. Because there's nothing more important than a job, and the most important job we create is the next one. And in our State, every time we create one of these jobs in the Innovation Economy, it creates two more jobs in the service industry and all of the other jobs that go into those highly skilled positions.

And because we understand that venture capital is the lifeblood of entrepreneurship, last year – alone, I think, among the 50 states – we're not the first State to do this, but in these tough times, I think the only State to do this – we passed InvestMaryland. And what InvestMaryland created in the law was the ability for the large entities that know they're going to have tax liabilities – large insurance companies – to forward pay at a slight discount their tax bill. And then we take those dollars, put them in a venture fund for those companies that have managed to incubate out of one stage and into that next. But this initiative – the Innovate Maryland Initiative – now we're rebranding it, we just call it "Innovate Maryland" for all of the initiatives now. Innovate Maryland. Say it with me people, "Innovate Maryland." And within Innovate Maryland are all of these other initiatives. The moving 40 ideas out of the labs every year that we kick off today, the *InvestMaryland* Initiative, the Biotech.

The better future that we seek will dawn first here in our State, if we choose to make it so. But the future's not a gift – it's an achievement. It's an achievement that brilliant science, the innovative technology, the remarkable discoveries – and let me add one other thing not in my notes, but obvious in my eyes: and that is the diversity of this place we call Maryland. Look around this room. Look at this. I mean, you have people here of every hue and color, and every culture from all over God's beautifully diverse planet coming together in this land of the free and the home of the brave, to make a better day. To make a new day. That is an asset that very few other places in the world have, but we have it. We need to cherish it. We need to harness it. We need to recognize it.

I'll leave you with one last quote from one of my heroes, Teilhard de Chardin. He said that "There is an absolute direction to growth. And life moves in that direction. And life is not mistaken – about its road, or about its destination." Let's move forward. Thanks a lot.

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on Public Service Commission's Action to Construct New Natural Gas Plant in Charles County

April 13th, 2012

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the Public Service Commission's action to construct a new natural gas plant in Charles County:

*"The Public Service Commission is required to ensure an adequate supply of electricity so that Maryland families and businesses can live and prosper. In light of the fact that 70 percent of Maryland's existing power plants are more than 30 years old, I applaud the decision by the Public Service Commission that will lead to the construction of a new natural gas plant in Charles County."*

*"Expected to be operational by June 2015, this plant will be the first of this size to be built in Maryland since June 2003. This new facility will bring a new energy supply to a significantly congested area of Maryland, create at least 350 jobs during construction and an estimated 30 jobs when fully operational, and directly save Marylanders over \$170 million throughout the life of the contract. Analysis by state agencies indicate that new generation in central Maryland can also bring hundreds of millions of dollars of savings in lowered energy, capacity, and congestion prices in the State. The PSC's action helps diversify Maryland's power supply."*

*"With this new addition, natural gas will account for over nine percent of Maryland's energy generation."*

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# Governor O'Malley Appoints Judges to Baltimore City and Prince George's County Courts

April 13th, 2012

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Jeffrey Michael Geller to serve on the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, three judges to serve on the District Court for Baltimore City, and four judges to serve on the District Court for Prince George's County.

"I am pleased to announce several highly-qualified appointees to the Baltimore City and Prince George's County courts," said Governor O'Malley. "Each of these individuals has exceptional qualifications, and brings with them a diverse array of legal expertise. We are confident that they will serve the people of our State well in their new roles."

Over the last several months, the Governor has conducted numerous interviews with candidates recommended to him by the trial court judicial nominating commissions. All of the judges selected to serve in Maryland's judiciary were recommended by the commissions.

In the **Circuit Court for Baltimore City**, Governor O'Malley has appointed Jeffrey Michael Geller. Mr. Geller has been an attorney with the Towson branch of Miles and Stockbridge, P.C. since 2004. Mr. Geller represents businesses and financial institutions in a diverse range of commercial, real estate, construction and employment law disputes. Mr. Geller also represents private clients in criminal and family law matters including divorce, custody, child support and alimony disputes, as well as international and domestic child abduction cases. Earlier in his career, Mr. Geller worked as an associate with Shapiro, Sher, Guinot, & Sandler and served for four years in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, where he gained extensive trial experience and handled a wide range of criminal cases. Mr. Geller received his law degree from American University's Washington College of Law in 1997, after which he clerked for the Honorable Frederick D. Dorsey of the District of Columbia Superior Court.

In the **District Court for Baltimore City**, Governor O'Malley has appointed Rachel Elizabeth Cogen, Melissa Kaye Copeland, and Jennifer Etheridge.

Ms. Cogen has spent her distinguished legal career as a prosecutor with the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. After working for approximately seven years as an Assistant State's Attorney in the district and circuit courts, she was promoted to the Chief of the Firearms Violence Division. In 2007, she received an award from the Baltimore County Police Department for her work in reducing gun violence. Since 2007, she has served as the Chief of the Juvenile Division. She received her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1997.

Ms. Copeland has served the people of Baltimore City for the past twelve years with the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office. She has worked as a prosecutor with the Felony Narcotics Trial Division, Misdemeanor Trial Division, and District Court Division. Since 2005 she has been the Deputy Division Chief for the Narcotics Division. She is currently serving on



a committee created to restructure the State's Attorney's Office to a community prosecution model. Before joining the State's Attorney's Office, she clerked for the Honorable Bonita J. Dancy of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. She received her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1998.

Ms. Etheridge is the Chief of Community Justice Initiatives for the Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, where she has worked on innovative programs to address misdemeanor nuisance crimes and prostitution. Before becoming the Chief of Community Justice Initiatives, Ms. Etheridge served in various divisions of the State's Attorney's Office, including the Juvenile Courts Division, the Misdemeanor Jury Trial Division, the Felony Jury Trial Division, and the Felony Narcotics Division. Earlier in her career, she worked in private practice on landlord/tenant matters and clerked for the Honorable Marvin B. Steinberg of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Ms. Etheridge received her law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1992.

In the **District Court for Prince George's County**, Governor O'Malley has appointed Robin Dana Gill Bright, Master Karen Holliday Mason, Erik Howard Nyce, and Joseph Leroy Wright.

Ms. Bright is currently the Associate County Attorney for the Prince George's County Office of Law and has served in that capacity since 2008. From 2006 to 2008, she was the General Counsel for Gill Group, Inc., a supplier and installer of food service equipment. Earlier in her legal career, she served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County, where she prosecuted violent crimes, sexual assault and child abuse cases, and narcotics cases. She also had experience in the juvenile and district court divisions during her time in the State's Attorney's Office. She received her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1997. She also has a Master's Degree in Administrative Management from Bowie State University, where she graduated *summa cum laude*. Prior to joining the legal profession, Ms. Bright worked as an accountant.

Ms. Mason is an active member of the Prince George's County legal community. She has been a Family Division Master in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County since 2007, where she handles juvenile cases, child support enforcement, and other domestic matters. In addition, she teaches civil litigation and other paralegal courses as an adjunct professor at Prince George's Community College. Prior to her selection as a Family Division Master, Ms. Mason served as an Assistant State's Attorney for Prince George's County, where she prosecuted child abuse and homicide cases. Ms. Mason also has experience in private practice, focusing on insurance and domestic matters. She started her legal career as a clerk to the Honorable Robert H. Mason of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Ms. Mason received her law degree from Catholic University, Columbus School of Law in 1992.

Mr. Nyce has been an active attorney in private practice in Prince George's County since 1987. He has handled a diverse range of matters, such as personal injury, criminal defense, commercial litigation, bankruptcy, and family law. He has also served as a panel attorney for the Office of the Public Defender in district court cases. Over a ten-year span, he also represented the Prince George's County Board of Supervisors of Elections, advising the members on election law and procedure and defending the Board in court against election challenges and lawsuits. He also served from 2009 to 2011 on the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. Nyce received his law degree from Wake Forest University Law School in 1987.

Mr. Wright has served the people of Prince George's County as a prosecutor with the State's Attorney's Office since 1998. As part of the Felony Trial Unit, Violent Crimes Unit, and the Assistant Chief of the District Court Division, he has tried some of the offices' most serious cases, including first degree murders, gang cases, attempted murders, and armed carjacker cases. Since 2011, he has worked in the newly created Special Prosecutions Unit. Before joining the State's Attorney's Office, Mr. Wright worked in private practice, representing clients in family law, criminal law, bankruptcy, and civil matters. He began his legal career as a clerk to the Honorable Evelyn Queen of the District of Columbia Superior Court. He received his

J.D. from Tulane Law School in 1995.

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# Maryland Proton Therapy Center Groundbreaking

April 17th, 2012

## Baltimore, MD

### As Prepared for Delivery

President Perman, Mayor Rawlings-Blake, Chancellor Kirwan – it's so good to join you today in the greatest city in America! I also want to recognize Dean Reece, Dr. Regine, and everyone who made today possible. It's great to be here at one of the preeminent public research universities in the nation, the University of Maryland, home of BioPark, a leader in advancing new discoveries and new healing.

One of my favorite things about my job is coming back to Baltimore and seeing the great progress this City continues to make – especially here on this side of Martin Luther King. Not even a decade ago, we came together here, at what was then a vacant Westside field, to break ground for BioPark. We've come a long way since then, and we did it together – so thank you for all you've done to make today possible.

The kind of innovation in healing and the life sciences that happens every day here at the BioPark is important not just for our quality of life, not just for advancing discoveries in science and healing,... but also for job creation and our ability to move forward as a State.

Over the past year, in our State we created 47,000 jobs at the ninth fastest rate in the nation. We've recovered nearly 80% of the jobs we lost during the recession– and that's nearly twice as many as the nation as a whole. And our life sciences sector is critical to that progress – accounting for one-third of all job gains in Maryland over eight years. Our State is now home to more than 70,000 jobs in the life sciences industry.

### Advancing Innovation in Healing

It's been a great week for innovation here in Maryland. Last week, I was at the JHU Hospital to dedicate its new building. And we toured the Emerging Technology Center to celebrate our new tech transfer initiative, where we're partnering with the University of Maryland's campuses, Johns Hopkins and Morgan State University to move more of the groundbreaking research happening at our universities into the commercial marketplace, and to do it faster.

And today, we're here to celebrate an emerging beacon of hope in the fight against cancer in our State – the Maryland Proton Treatment Center. We're breaking ground for a state-of-the-art treatment center that will offer the most advanced form of cancer therapy available today. It's the first treatment center of its kind in Maryland – and only the 12<sup>th</sup> of its kind in the country.

What's more, this Center will also bring a \$200 million investment to our City and State, along with hundreds of new jobs. This investment doubles the capital investment in the BioPark to over \$400 million in six years, and strengthens our State's position at the epicenter of science,

health and healing.

If you look around our State at what we have in terms of the talents and creativity of our people, and where we sit at the epicenter of science, security, healing, and innovation, there is not another place anywhere in our country better poised to take advantage of the challenges that confront us and make them the job opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Our State ranks #1 in research and development per capita. The Milken Institute says we're #2 for science and technology assets. We are among the three states best positioned in the new economy, according to the Kauffman Index. And the U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks us as a Top 5 state for growth and a Top 7 state for innovation and entrepreneurship. Not to mention, we are home to world-class institutions of science, discovery, and higher learning like the University of Maryland, and 50 federal facilities in our backyard.

And we're leveraging those assets to do even more. We are investing directly into Maryland's Innovation Economy through our \$1.3 billion BioMaryland initiative, the Biotech Tax Credit, the R&D Credit, and Stem Cell Research.

Because we understand that venture capital is the lifeblood of entrepreneurship and innovation, we created *InvestMaryland* – the largest-ever single shot of venture capital into our State's economy. And last month, we raised \$84 million to make this a reality – exceeding our goal of \$70 million. In a few months, we will be making our first round of investments.

## Conclusion

We're a long way from winning the fight against cancer, but we're moving forward by harnessing the healing potential of our State's greatest asset – and that is the skills, the talents, and the imagination of our people. Thank you for your work to advance the sciences of healing, and thank you for inviting me to join you in celebration today.

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# Governor Martin O'Malley Announces Chesapeake Bay Juvenile Blue Crab Population Highest on Record

April 19th, 2012

## Overall Population Highest since 1993 According to Winter Dredge Survey

**RIVA, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the Chesapeake Bay's juvenile blue crab population is at the highest level on record, and the overall blue crab population is at its highest level since 1993.

Joined by stakeholders and elected officials, Governor O'Malley revealed the results of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) annual winter dredge survey at Mike's Crab House overlooking the Severn river.

"Just a few short years ago, the future did not look bright for our blue crab population," said Governor O'Malley. "Our female crabs were being overfished, and our fishery was at risk of complete collapse. Today's announcement marks four years in a row of progress to restore the blue crab. The kind of progress we're making today really only happens when we work together. None of us can restore the blue crab alone – we're all in this together, and it will take all of us working together to achieve a better future for our crabs, our industry, recreational crabbers and crab-lovers across our State.

According to the survey, an estimated 764 million crabs spent this winter in the Bay, nearly 66 percent more than last year. Juvenile crabs reached a record high of 587 million, nearly triple last year's 207 million. The previous record of 512 million was set in 1997.



"I'm proud to stand and fight for Maryland's watermen who faced a potential disaster to their way of life. I fought to put funding in the federal checkbook to support Maryland's watermen and protect the Bay," said Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice and Science (CJS) Appropriations Subcommittee. "The replenishment and return of the blue crab is good news for Maryland's watermen who have been affected by shrinking crab harvests. I will continue to lead Team Maryland in our efforts to protect the Bay and those whose livelihoods depend on it."

The survey results did sound one cautionary note, which was a decline in the number of spawning-age females from 190 million to 97 million crabs. Despite the downturn, the population remains above the safe threshold level. Preliminary estimates of the 2011 female harvest are below the target of 25.5 percent, again confirming that management measures have continued to be effective at constraining the fishery to appropriate levels.

"The drop in abundance of spawning-age females is neither unusual nor unprecedented – in fact, we expect this type of variation in populations from year to year," said DNR Secretary John Griffin. "While last year's severe storms and the warm winter may have had an impact, we are optimistic that our record recruitment will bode well for next year's adults, both male and female. Meanwhile, it is our job is to make sure that fishing occurs at an appropriate level, which we will continue to do."

Maryland's management system of daily catch limits and closed periods is designed to adapt and ensure that annual crab harvests stay balanced with annual shifts in abundance.

"As we have done in years past, we will work with our stakeholders and our advisory commissions to develop a sustainable harvest level equivalent to last year," said DNR Fisheries Director Tom O'Connell. "The preliminary Bay-wide harvest for 2011 is estimated to be 67.3 million pounds, again confirming that a robust industry can coexist with regulations designed to rebuild a self-sustaining, healthy blue crab population."

Estimates of abundance are developed separately for young of the year crabs, mature female crabs, and adult male crabs. Together, these groups of crabs will support the 2012 fishery and produce the next generation of crabs.

"It is encouraging to not only see an improving crab population but also a management system that is working," said Bill Goldsborough, director of Fisheries for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "We applaud DNR and Governor O'Malley and encourage them to stay the course and continue the science based management approach that has lead to this resurgence in the Chesapeake blue crab."

Through a historic collaboration in 2008, Maryland, Virginia and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission took strong coordinated action to reduce harvest pressure on female crabs by 34 percent. At that time, scientists from all three jurisdictions deemed conservation measures necessary as blue crabs suffered near historic lows in spawning stock.

"This fishery appears to be in far better shape than it was just a few short years ago and is one of the most successful fishery stock rebuilding programs ever, anywhere," said Doug Domenech, Virginia's Secretary of Natural Resources. "I attribute that to the actions taken by the Marine Resources Commission, the excellent scientific advice from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the continuing efforts of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources."

DNR and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have conducted the primary assessment of the Bay's blue crab population annually since 1990. The survey employs crab dredges to sample blue crabs at 1,500 sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay from December through March. Sampling during winter when blue crabs are usually buried in the mud and stationary, allows scientists to develop, with good precision, estimates of the number of crabs present in the Bay.

In 2011, Governor O'Malley and members of the Maryland General Assembly passed bills that

increased enforcement authority and penalties for certain egregious violations of striped bass, oyster and blue crab regulations. This year the legislature passed an important measure to increase efficiency, flexibility, and accountability in Maryland's commercial fishing license system and allow for cost recovery of some of the services provided to the commercial fishing industry.

In September 2008, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service responded to Governor O'Malley's request for disaster assistance funding for watermen impacted by the declining blue crab population. With support from Senator Barbara Mikulski and Maryland's Congressional Delegation, DNR received \$15 million that extends into 2012 to assist management efforts and mitigate the impacts from the blue crab fishery disaster. In Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010, Governor O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly also directed \$6 million in capital funding toward these efforts. In further support of the industry, DNR recently launched a new *True Blue* labeling and promotion program that will let restaurant-goers know whether their seafood dishes use meat from Maryland blue crabs or less expensive (less tasty) crabmeat from abroad.

Water quality was also a big winner in the 2012 General Assembly. Legislation doubling the Bay Restoration Fund fee will support upgrades to [67 major wastewater treatment plants](#), upgrades to septic systems, stormwater management grants and the planting of cover crops – all of which will help dramatically reduce nutrient pollution entering Maryland waterways. [A measure requiring the largest jurisdictions to implement a stormwater utility fee](#) will fund stormwater pollution reductions, and [The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012](#) requires jurisdictions to develop land-use plans that will encourage growth in existing communities and preserve large tracts of agricultural and forest land in Maryland. A measure reducing the tax burden on Marylanders who inherit family farms will encourage farmers to keep their valuable land in agriculture, instead of selling it to developers.

Governor O'Malley's 2013 capital budget includes more than \$211 million in funding to help the Chesapeake Bay, including \$38 million in GO Bonds for grants to fund stormwater projects through the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays Trust Fund, and \$8 million for oyster recovery.

More information is available [here](#).

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# Blue Crab Announcement

April 19th, 2012

## Riva, MD

### As prepared for delivery

Good morning, and thank you for joining us. To the Piera family, thank you for hosting us once again. It's great to be back here at Mike's Crab House on the beautiful South River.

As we begin, I want to say a special word of thanks to a few people who made today's announcement possible – Secretary Griffin, Assistant Secretary Frank Dawson, Fisheries Director Tom O'Connell, Deputy Director Lynn Fegley, and their staff. We're especially grateful for the hard work of Senator Mikulski and our entire congressional delegation for fighting to secure a disaster declaration and associated funding, which helped support our working watermen and seafood industry during this recovery.

We also thank our neighbors in Virginia for their partnership – Governor McDonnell, his predecessor Governor Kaine, Secretary Domenech, and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission.

And I want to recognize all our legislators and advocates – the BaySavers, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Maryland Coastal Conservation Association, the Maryland Waterman's Association, the Chesapeake Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association and many others – who have worked with us to pass legislation to better protect our fisheries.

We may not have achieved all of our goals this Legislative Session, but working together, we made progress toward a healthier fishery and a cleaner Bay. With your help, we moved forward to reduce septic pollution and harmful sprawl,... we increased the Bay Restoration Fee to fund upgrades to wastewater treatments plants,... and we're doing more to invest in stormwater management. In all, this year's capital budget includes more than \$211 million in funding to help restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Today, thanks to the tough but right choices we've made together these past few years, we're here to announce some exciting progress in our work to restore the blue crab. We're happy to report that our blue crab population is at its highest level in 19 years. Give yourselves a round of applause for your hard work!

This is very good news – it's good news for our watermen, it's good news for our Bay, and it's good news for jobs and our economy.

### Restoring the Blue Crab

A few years ago, the future did not look bright for our blue crab population. Our female crabs were being overfished, and our fishery was at risk of complete collapse. But we teamed up with our neighbors in Virginia at the Potomac River Fisheries Commission to make the tough choices, guided by science, to reverse that population decline.

And our work is paying off. Our announcement today marks four years in a row of progress to restore the blue crab. Our conservation measures are working, and we have reached our goal of a healthy abundance of adult blue crabs.

I want to touch on a few other highlights of the annual winter dredge survey, and then I'll let the experts get into more detail.

According to our survey, this year there were 66% more crabs living in our Bay compared to last year.

Our juvenile blue crab population is at its highest level on record. Juvenile crabs numbered at 587 million – that's nearly triple last year's population.

We have seen a drop in spawning-age females from last year, but overall, our female population remains above the safe threshold level. This kind of variation in population is not out of the ordinary, and we're optimistic that our record juvenile population will bring better news next year.

I also want to mention a new initiative we're launching later this spring. It's called True Blue, and it's a way for customers at Maryland restaurants to know whether that crabcake they're ordering is made using delicious, local Maryland crab meat, or whether it's imported crab meat. Restaurants that serve crabs exclusively from the Chesapeake Bay region will be able to use our True Blue logos, signage and labeling to let their customers know.

## Conclusion

The kind of progress we're making today really only happens when we work together. None of us can restore the blue crab alone – we're all in this together, and it will take all of us working together to achieve a better future for our crabs, our industry, recreational crabbers and crab-lovers across our State.

We thank you again for your hard work and your partnership with us to move forward. Now I'll turn it over to Secretary Griffin.

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on New State Superintendent of Schools

April 20th, 2012

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today issued the following statement on the State Board of Education's selection of Dr. Lillian M. Lowery as Maryland's new State Superintendent of Schools:

*"I am pleased that the State Board of Education has chosen Dr. Lillian Lowery to lead Maryland's number-one-in-the-nation public school system. I'd also like to thank Dr. Sadusky for his dedication to our students and commitment to maintaining our educational progress.*

*"In Maryland, we've built nationally-recognized early childhood development programs, increased student achievement and graduation rates, and prepared more students for college and career through increased access to Advanced Placement. Under Dr. Lowery's leadership, we can work with renewed vigor to close persistent achievement gaps, increase the number of high school graduates with career and technical skills, and boost our efforts to train the best principals for our schools.*

*"Together, we can continue to build on the progress we've made to give our children the tools to build a better future."*

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# Statement from Governor Martin O'Malley on March Jobs Report

April 20th, 2012

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Governor Martin O'Malley today released the following statement on the U.S. Department of Labor's release of preliminary employment data for the month of March. Marylanders added 1,500 jobs in March, the seventh consecutive month of job growth.

*"Since March of last year, the people of our State have created 49,600 jobs, 47,700 of them in the private sector. So far this year, we've created 20,200 net new jobs—our best start to a year since at least 1990 (the year BLS began reporting seasonally adjusted jobs data). Maryland has also recovered 80 percent of the jobs lost during the Bush recession, nearly double the national recovery rate.*

*"As more Marylanders find work and seek employment, our unemployment rate increased slightly to 6.6 percent, while remaining 24 percent below the national average, and .5 percentage points lower than the same time last year. This is a sign that we are moving in the right direction. But there is still more work to do. The most important job we create is the next one.*

*"We must come together to protect our commitment to job creation, education, and innovation to move our State forward. We cannot afford to take steps back. Progress is a choice we must make now to provide a better future for our children."*

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## State Board of Education

April 24th, 2012

### Baltimore, MD

#### As prepared for delivery

President DeGraffenreidt, Dr. Lowery, Members of the Board,... thanks very much for the opportunity to join you.

A special word of thanks to Bernie Sadusky. Bernie kept our educational enterprise moving forward during our search of a new superintendent – and for that we are very grateful.



Today is a happy occasion. It is happy because we have the opportunity to welcome Dr. Lowery to Maryland. We are very fortunate to have someone of Dr. Lowery's leadership and experience on board.

It is also happy because yesterday, the U.S. Department of Education named as "Green Ribbon Schools" Dunloggin Middle School in Ellicott City, Francis Scott Key Middle School in Silver Spring, Folger McKinsey Elementary School in Severna Park, and the Lucy School in

Middletown.

Only 78 schools across the United States were recognized with these awards and four of them are in Maryland. What are Green Ribbon Schools? They are schools recognized for their work creating “green environments” by working to reduce environmental impacts, promote health, and teach environmental and outdoor education.

So today is a happy occasion, but it’s also an occasion to remember that progress is not inevitable; it is the product of the good choices we make together.

The unfinished 2013 budget deliberations continue to threaten our forward progress with big cuts to education.

On the capital side, we were able to secure the second-largest investment in school construction ever in our State’s history. On the legislative side, I signed MOE reform that will protect the investments we make together in public education. But on the operating side, we still have some work to do if we’re going to be able to protect and exceed our progress.

To be able to be named #1 for four years in a row – that’s never happened before, and it’s a very, very big deal. All of us will have a role to play in making sure we do not jeopardize all that we’ve been able to achieve for our kids and the future they deserve.

In a State united by our belief in the dignity of every individual,... in a State united by our understanding that there is no such thing as a spare Marylander or spare American,... in a State in which our top priorities are creating and saving jobs,... in a State ever seeking to expand opportunity to more of its people rather than fewer,... there is no progress without public education.

### **Priorities: Things We’ve Done Well**

When we met in 2009, we laid out seven strategies for both protecting the progress we’ve made together, ... and for moving toward our goal of building the best public school system in the world.

In some of these areas, we’ve done exceptionally well. In others, we’re still working toward that breakthrough. Running through them:

First, was to work with the Obama Administration to secure federal investment in Maryland’s public schools. Thank you all for everything you did to allow us to compete and win Race to the Top and with it \$250 million for our K-12 public schools, and an additional \$50 million for early childhood education.

We’ve set the goal of increasing the number of STEM college graduates 40% by 2015. Today, we are more than half way there at 21%. But we won’t get to 40% by running in place or taking our foot off the gas. There is still more work to do, but we’ve been moving our graphs in the right direction.

We’ve been making steady progress moving forward with STEMnet. We’re also moving forward on Project Lead the Way – enrolling 11,000 students versus the 2,500 who were enrolled back in 2006. That’s a graph moving in the right direction.

Connected to all these areas is AP participation and success. Our students are taking 28% more AP exams in the STEM disciplines. And according to the College Board, our students rank #1 in America in AP success and #2 in overall participation.

To advance STEM, to make it more real for students – and to give students new tools to succeed in a changing world – we asked you in 2009 to add an environmental literacy and financial literacy requirement. Thank you for acting on both.

There is new evidence which suggests that our technical skills in the STEM disciplines are

bolstered by the critical thinking skills we learn from things like art and music. Art and music also help students in so many other ways – engaging them in school, building self-confidence, bolstering achievement in the classroom.

Therefore, as seek to move forward on STEM, we will also look for new ways to move forward on arts and music education.

As we said in 2009, *“we want our students to compete in the global economy with students from Europe, Asia, Africa, and across the world, we should benchmark their academic achievements against students from – you guessed it – Europe, Asia, Africa and elsewhere across the world.”*

Today, we have adopted the Common Core curriculum, and we are transitioning to new assessments which will allow us to benchmark our students’ achievement with students around our country and around the world.

We called for the creation of a single, continual, longitudinal data system that follows students as they move from elementary school, through secondary education, and finally into higher education. There has been a tremendous amount of good work and progress made to create this longitudinal system. In fact, we’ve moved from being at the back of the pack to the front, thanks to Chairman DeGraffenreidt and Britt Kirwin’s collaborative focus. By the end of the year, we plan to make data available to parents, students, and educators online.

Student achievement and readiness. As you know, we’ve set an enterprise-wide goal of improving student achievement and school, college, career, and readiness 25% by 2015. We’re able to report today that we are moving our graphs in the right direction. To give you an example: we’ve been able to achieve a 21% increase in 8th grade reading scores and nearly a 17% increase in math scores. We’ve brought together stakeholders from education, labor, industry, and government to help us as we continue to work toward exceeding this 25% goal.

We’ve also increased by 28% the proportion of children entering kindergarten to learn.

### **Priorities: Areas Where We Need Improvement**

While we have made significant progress on five of the seven priorities we laid out in 2009, we are yet to break through on these next two:

**Principals:** Principals are teacher magnets. I’ve never known a troubled school that was turned around without a great principal leading the effort.

When we won Race to the Top, we were afforded federal funding to train principals to turn around low performing schools. We were also awarded funding to train educators from every school in our State on the common core curricula. Why do I mention both these things? Because while we have succeeded on Common Core training, we’re yet to launch the same sort of effort on principals. Let’s agree to make 2012 the year we move forward,...

**Career and Technology Education, CTE.** A recent study found that 38% of bioscience jobs in Maryland could be filled by individuals with less than an Associate’s Degree if they had the proper training. CTE is another way of saying opportunity. It’s been our priority these last five years. And yet, last school year we graduated fewer CTE high school graduates than we did in 2008. What’s more, fewer of our CTE graduates earned industry credentials than in 2008. While the numbers are up slightly from the year before, we have some work to do just to make up the ground we’ve lost.

There is one final area I want to mention today, where we are coming up short of where we should be – and that’s with closing our achievement gaps. Working together, we’ve been able to cut in half the achievement gaps in elementary math and reading, and in middle school reading. But cutting these gaps in half is not good enough. And while our African American high school students achieved the third highest AP success rate in the nation last year, we still

can do better – and we owe it to our kids to do better. Ultimately, closing our achievement gaps represents our greatest opportunity for continued progress.

## Conclusion

Maryland's Economy is an Innovation Economy – and in an innovation economy our greatest assets are skills, creativity, ingenuity and education of our people. Thanks for all that you do – I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

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# Governor O'Malley Announces Kenneth J. Mallette as Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency

April 25th, 2012

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** –Governor Martin O'Malley today announced the appointment of Kenneth J. Mallette as Executive Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

"Our most solemn obligation as public servants is to ensure the safety of our people," said Governor O'Malley. "I am pleased that Ken has chosen to step up and serve as we work to build a safer, more resilient Maryland. He brings with him a wealth of experience and vital crisis management skills that will make certain our citizens are better prepared when a disaster strikes."

The Governor continued, "I'd also like to thank Richard Muth for his leadership and willingness to serve in tough times. Thanks to his hard work over the years, MEMA is better prepared to handle emergencies as demonstrated through his calm and steady hand during Hurricane Irene."

"I am honored and excited about joining Governor O'Malley's Administration," said Mr. Mallette. "I look forward to working with the good people of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, and our public and private sector partners in support of the mission of making Maryland residents and visitors safe."

Mr. Mallette comes to the State of Maryland with over 35 years of first responder and executive level management experience in the public and private sector. Ken, was the Vice President of Preparedness Services for Witt Associates, a Washington, DC-based crisis and risk management firm headed by former FEMA Director James Lee Witt. Ken retired from the New Jersey State Police as a Captain and was assigned to several leadership positions including Chief of the Emergency Management Bureau and Executive Officer in the Homeland Security Branch. He is a life time member of Jackson #1 Volunteer Fire Company, a combination career/volunteer fire department in Jackson, NJ. He started volunteering in 1977 and has held every administrative and operational position including five years as Chief of the Department.

Mr. Mallette will assume his new role on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

"I'd like to thank Governor O'Malley for his outstanding support throughout my tenure as Executive Director," said Richard Muth. "He truly understands the importance of public safety and emergency management. His support of those missions both at MEMA and at the local level is greatly appreciated."

[The O'Malley-Brown Administration continues to make steady progress to enhance Maryland's homeland security and emergency preparedness, including 12 Core Goals to build a better prepared Maryland.](#) To date, the Administration has continued to build out a historic Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Radio Communications System that will allow all state and local first responders to communicate with each other across jurisdictions using a single handheld



radio; helped create a shared network of more than 700 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) camera feeds that provide real-time situational awareness of highway and roadway conditions for first responders in Maryland and the National Capitol Region; deployed more than 300 License Plate Readers across the State that enable law enforcement officers to track terrorist suspects as well as recover stolen vehicles; developed an online emergency mapping application (OSPREY) that provides real-time emergency data and information to first responders and the public; connected all 46 acute care hospitals in the state and more than 300 private retail pharmacies to an electronic biosurveillance system that detects early indicators of virus outbreaks and public health threats; created radar-based tracking systems that monitors vessels movements across the Chesapeake Bay and nearby waterways and enables law enforcement officers to better protect critical maritime infrastructure and natural resources; and created an electronic health and medical information dashboard that brings multiple real-time data feeds, such as emergency room status and hospital resource availability, into a single online viewer available to all hospitals, EMS units, and other medical first responders.

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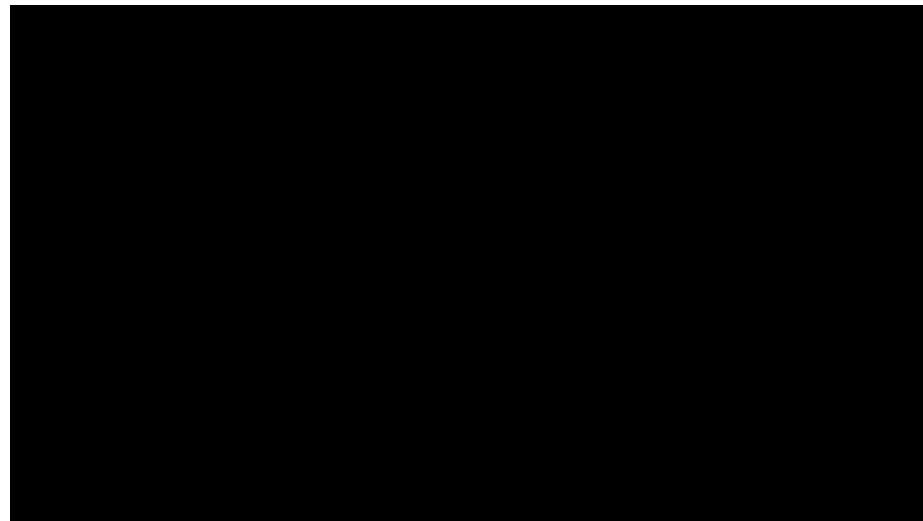
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# Arbor Day Foundation Vision Award

April 28th, 2012

## Nebraska City, Nebraska

As prepared for delivery



Thank you all very much, not only for this very kind recognition of Maryland's environmental leadership and positive choices, but thank you also for the great work of the Arbor Day Foundation. Your kind recognition reflects the hard work of thousands of people in Maryland including Steve Koehn, our State Forester, and John Griffin, our Secretary of Natural Resources — both of whom are here tonight.

## Right Now

There is a story about a child who asks her grandfather: *"Grandfather, we've learned all about the importance of trees, how they can help the environment, clean the air, and filter storm water run-off. When's the best time to plant a tree?"* Her grandfather says, *"Well, it takes time for those roots to go deep and for branches to spread, ... and so the most important time plant a tree is 20 years ago."* And the little girl asks, *"Well, when is the next best time to plant a tree?"* The grandfather responds: *"Right now."*

## The Vital Connection

The vital connection between our forests and our children's future has never been more important, or more threatened, than it is right now.

Together, for the last several thousand years, we have been co-authors with Creation of the emerging story of the Earth — that fundamental truth that gives context to the story of our

shared humanity. But right now, the Earth, which determined its own movement forward over these millennia, is seeing its immediate future determined by the choices and actions of us — of human beings: the one species most capable of manipulating our environment, and the only species intellectually capable of free choice.

Reversing deforestation is complicated; planting a tree is simple.

## **The Capacity to Grow**

The essential question for us, right now, is whether we have the capacity to grow.

There is a lot of talk in our recovering economy about growth. We hear elected officials describing themselves as “pro-growth Democrats” or “pro-growth Republicans.”

In Maryland, we consider ourselves pro-growth Americans.

You see, we believe in growing jobs and growing opportunity. Like you, we believe in children growing healthy, growing educated, and growing strong. We believe in grandparents growing old with dignity and love. Like you we believe in growing trees, growing stream buffers, growing food for a hungry world.

Together, we are called upon to accomplish what Thomas Berry called “The Great Work”; what Aldo Leopold described as the evolutionary development of a third great ethic — the Ethic of Land.

It is the work of healing and restoring the common good we share with all natural beings. Growing in our mindfulness,... growing in our awareness,... growing in our understanding of the balance we must rediscover and reconcile with the other living systems of this one Earth — the Earth we choose to share, or not share, with future generations.

Human choices have become terribly powerful things on this finite globe,...

## **Smart, Green and Growing**

For Maryland, we choose a future that is Smart, Green, and Growing.

We choose to plant trees, to grow oysters, to restore the blue crab.

With science, the internet, and SmartMaps, we choose to protect our Open Space; to map and restore our Greenprint; to defend and protect our Agprint; to monitor and restore our StreamHealth.

Upgrading to better sewage treatment technology; implementing better farming practices; employing better, more sustainable forestry management.

Creating a future with no net forest loss; ensuring that 40% of all land in our State is covered by trees and forests by the year 2020.

Protecting high-quality forests, encouraging the retention of working lands, and promoting family-owned forest stewardship.

Environmental Literacy. No Child Left inside.

BayStat.

Restorative Justice. Chesapeake Jobs Corps.

Conservation by design.

We choose to do all of these things, and we choose to do them,... right now.

## **Conclusion**

For as a great man once observed, “...*there is an absolute direction to growth. And life moves in that direction. And life is never mistaken, either about its road or its destination. It tells toward what part of the horizon we must steer if we are to see the dawn’s light grow more bright.*”

Thank you very much.

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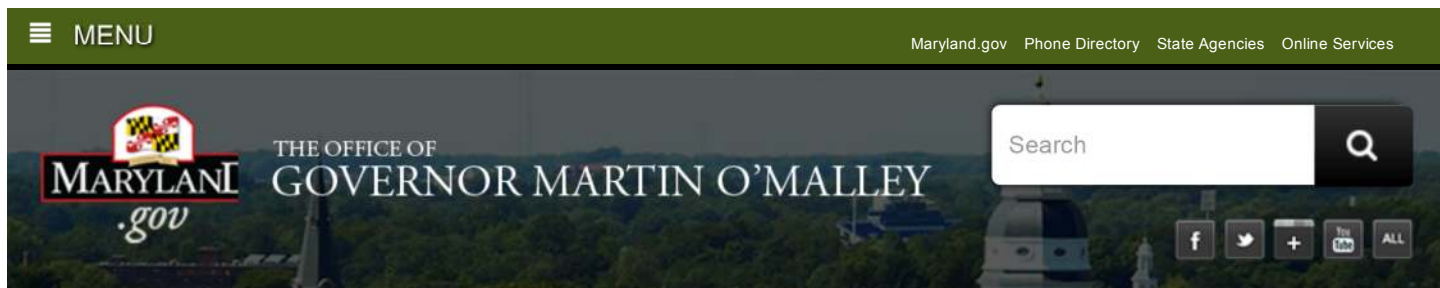
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# Beverley Swaim-Staley to Step Down as Maryland Transportation Secretary

April 30th, 2012

## *First woman to hold the position departs after 25 years of state service*

**ANNAPOLIS, MD** – Beverley Swaim-Staley, the first woman to be appointed as Maryland's Transportation Secretary, announced today that she will step down from that position after 25 years of state service. Ms. Swaim-Staley was appointed Secretary by Governor Martin O'Malley in September 2009. Prior to taking the position she had served as Deputy Transportation Secretary from 2007-2009. She had previously served as Deputy Secretary from 1999 through 2003 during which time she also directed all operations at BWI Marshall Airport following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the subsequent revolution in airport security. Ms. Swaim-Staley's resignation is effective July 1 of this year to allow for an orderly transition.

"When Beverley joined our team over five years ago, she was widely recognized for her seasoned leadership," said Governor O'Malley. "Throughout her tenure, she has solidified her reputation as a skilled and forward thinking executive. With her strong background in both finance and transportation, Beverley guided our transportation efforts during the most difficult economic downturn this country has faced in generations. Despite the economic challenges, we made significant progress including the development of an award winning public-private partnership at the Port of Baltimore and the opening of the Intercounty Connector. I thank her for her years of service."

In addition to the milestones reached involving the Port of Baltimore and the ICC, during Ms. Swaim-Staley's tenure she served as Maryland's senior representative on the inter-jurisdictional effort to strengthen safety and improve the governance of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; oversaw the application of state-of-the-art technology to modernize customer service at the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration; improved reliability and on-time performance of the MARC commuter rail system; and, shepherded efforts required to maintain the fiscal health of both the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Maryland Transportation Authority that operates and maintains the State's eight toll facilities.

As Secretary, Ms. Swaim-Staley directed initiatives to assure Maryland's national prominence in the area of minority business development by enhancing the State's Minority Business Enterprise Program. She also developed the first office within MDOT dedicated to comprehensively addressing equity and diversity issues. Ms. Swaim-Staley was recently named by the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials as one of the nation's most influential women in the transportation industry. In 2010, she was named by the Maryland Washington Minority Contractors' Association as the Most Inclusive Government Leader of the Year for Minority Business Enterprise.

"It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Maryland throughout my professional career,"

said Ms. Swaim-Staley. "I chose to make transportation the focus of my government service because I believe it is one of those key areas of government where you can make a positive impact on the lives of citizens across the state. I thank Governor O'Malley and the citizens of Maryland for this tremendous opportunity. I also thank the thousands of employees throughout MDOT who made our collective progress possible."

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